

SYNNESTVEDT & LECHNER LLP  
Application No. 09/936,974

December 22, 2003  
Attorney Docket No. P25,400 USA

In the Claims

Cancel Claims 1, 2, 12 and 24 to 40 inclusive without prejudice.

Add the following claims.\*

41. (New) An alkaline, aqueous cleaning composition which comprises:

- (a) 0.1 to 50% by weight of detergent builder;
- (b) 0.1 to 20% by weight of a coupling agent consisting essentially of an oxygenated organic solvent;
- (c) 0.1 to 10% by weight of a fatty acid alkyl ester and/or dibasic ester;
- (d) 0.1 to 10% surfactant; and, optionally,
- (e) a minor amount of one or more additives.

42. (New) A composition according to claim 41, further comprising one or more of the following additives: a colouring agent; a perfume; a biocide; a preservative; an anti-septic; and/or an anti-static agent.

43. (New) A composition according to claim 41 further comprising benzalkonium chloride.

\*Appendix A attached hereto identifies the bases in the present application for the added claims.

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44. (New) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (a) is selected from the group consisting of pyrophosphoric acid and polyphosphoric acid, and salts thereof.
45. (New) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (b) consists essentially of a liquid, water-soluble oxygenated organic solvent.
46. (New) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (b) consists essentially of an ether of an alkylene glycol.
47. (New) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (b) consists essentially of a propylene glycol ether.
48. (New) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (c) consists essentially of a C<sub>16</sub> to C<sub>22</sub> fatty acid alkyl ester.
49. (New) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (c) consists essentially of a C<sub>16</sub>-C<sub>18</sub> fatty acid (C<sub>1</sub>-C<sub>4</sub>) alkyl ester.
50. (New) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (d) consists essentially of a low-foaming surfactant capable of keeping component (c) in solution in the composition.
51. (New) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (d) consists essentially of an ether of a fatty alcohol.

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52. (New) A composition according to claim 41, wherein component (d) consists essentially of an ethoxylated alcohol.
53. (New) A composition according to claim 41 in the form of a solution.
54. (New) A composition according to claim 41, which is substantially free from halogenated surfactants and solvents; and/or ammonia; ammonium and other nitrogen-based ingredients; and/or silicates and other depositing inorganics.
55. (New) A composition according to claim 41 having a pH in the range of from 8 to 12.
56. (New) A composition according to claim 41 having a pH of 10.
57. (New) A composition according to claim 41 comprising in the range of from 60 to 90% w/w water.
58. (New) A concentrate composition suitable for dilution with, in the range of from, 1 to 8 parts water to prepare a composition according to claim 41.
59. (New) A method for cleaning a surface which method comprises applying to the surface an alkaline cleaning composition as defined in claim 41, in an amount sufficient to wet the surface.
60. (New) The use of a composition according to claim 41 in the preparation of an aqueous solution for cleaning a surface, such as carpet, upholstery, textiles, furnishings, metal and glass.

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61. (New) A method of preparing a composition according to claim 41, which method comprises bringing the components into intimate physical admixture to form an aqueous solution or weak emulsion.

62. (New) An aqueous alkaline cleaning composition consisting essentially of:

- (a) pyrophosphoric acid or polyphosphoric acid, or a salt thereof;
- (b) an ether of an alkylene glycol;
- (c) a C<sub>16</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> fatty acid alkyl ester;
- (d) an ether of a fatty alcohol; and optionally,
- (e) a colouring agent; perfume; biocide; preservative; anti-septic; and/or anti-static agent.

63. (New) A two-part cleaning composition suitable for cleaning carpets, which composition comprises:

- (a) an aqueous alkaline cleaning composition comprising
  - (i) 0.1 to 50% by weight of detergent builder;
  - (ii) 0.1 to 20% by weight of coupling agent;
  - (iii) 0.1 to 10% by weight of fatty acid alkyl esters and/or dibasic esters;

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- (iv) 0.1 to 10% surfactant; and, optionally,
- (v) a minor amount of one or more additives; and
- (b) a neutralising composition;

whereby, in use, the pH of the combined compositions (a) and (b) is in the range of from 5.5 to 8.5.

64. (New) A composition according to claim 63, wherein the alkaline cleaning composition (a) consists essentially of:

- (i) pyrophosphoric acid or polyphosphoric acid, or a salt thereof;
- (ii) an ether of an alkylene glycol;
- (iii) a C<sub>16</sub>-C<sub>22</sub> fatty acid alkyl ester;
- (iv) an ether of a fatty alcohol; and optionally,
- (v) a colouring agent; perfume; biocide; preservative; anti-septic; and/or anti-static agent.

65. (New) A two-part cleaning composition according to claim 64, wherein, in use, the pH of the combined compositions (a) and (b) is in the range of from 6.5 to 8.

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66. (New) A two-part cleaning composition according to claim 64, wherein, in use, the pH of the combined compositions (a) and (b) is about 7.5.

67. (New) A two-part cleaning composition according to claim 64, wherein the neutralising composition comprises an aqueous solution of a non-oxidising acid.

68. (New) A two-part cleaning composition according to claim 64, wherein the neutralising composition (b) is in the form of an aqueous solution of one part acid to, in the range of from, 40 to 70 parts water.

69. (New) A two-part cleaning composition according to claim 64, wherein the neutralising composition (b) is in the form of an aqueous solution of one part acid to 60 parts water.

70. (New) A method suitable for cleaning a carpet surface, which method comprises:-

- (a) applying to the surface an alkaline cleaning composition in an amount sufficient to wet the surface; and
- (b) mechanically buffing the surface with a pad soaked in a neutralising composition in an amount sufficient such that the pH of the combined compositions is in the range of from 5.5 to 8.5.

71. (New) A method according to claim 70, wherein the neutralising composition is heated to a temperature in the range of from 50° to 95°C, prior to buffing the surface.

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72. (New) A method according to claim 70, wherein the neutralising composition is heated to a temperature in the range of from 70° to 85°C, prior to buffing the surface.

73. (New) A method according to claim 70, wherein the alkaline cleaning composition comprises a water-based cleaning composition as defined in claim 41.

74. (New) A method according to claim 70, using the two-part cleaning composition according to claim 63.

75. (New) A method according to claim 70, in which the ratio of neutralising composition to cleaning composition is greater than one.

76. (New) A method according to claim 70, in which the ratio of neutralising composition to cleaning composition is in the range of from 2 to 4:1, respectively.

77. (New) A method according to claim 70, wherein the neutralising composition is heated in a tank prior to application to the surface.

78. (New) A method according to claim 70, wherein the pad is heated prior to application to the surface.

79. (New) A method according to claim 70, wherein the pad is heated by immersion in the neutralising composition prior to application to the surface.

80. (New) A tank for use in a method according to claim 70, which tank is provided in association with a two-part cleaning composition according to claim 63.

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81. (New) A tank according to claim 80 capable of controlling the temperature of the neutralising composition between set temperature limits.

82. (New) A method according to claim 59, in which the surface being cleaned comprises carpet fibers.

83. (New) A composition according to claim 47, wherein said propylene glycol ether consists essentially of propylene glycol N-butyl ether.